

Bullshooter Claims Cabarrus, Nation

BY RAHN ADAMS

If veteran bullshooter Jess Parker of Holden Beach Road has his way, Brunswick County soon will spread from sea to shining sea.

Parker claims he has already annexed Cabarrus County for Brunswick, just to keep 1986 bullshooting champion Lewis Williams of Concord "in the county."

And since Cabarrus is now part of Brunswick, Parker says, that means Brunswick County can claim Miss North Carolina Lori Wrenn Boggs as its own.

What's next to claim? Only Parker and his active imagination know.

That's just one example of what's on tap for this year's annual Brunswick County Veterans Bullshooting Contest, scheduled for Oct. 10 around 2:30 p.m.

The event is part of the Seventh Annual North Carolina Oyster Festival Oct. 10-11 at Seaside.

Parker, 55, works in Bolivia as Brunswick County's veterans service officer. He says he started the bullshooting contest four years ago as a means of getting together Brunswick County's veterans, to share war and sea stories.

"We're very serious about this," Parker says, as he reaches across his desk to display his "official bullshooter's license."

It reads: "Whereas Jess Parker has exhibited an inclination and talent for shooting the Bull for many

years with generally lively results, he is hereby issued this unrestricted license to Shoot the Bull . . ."

And "unrestricted" is right, according to Parker. He says the only rule the bullshooting contest abides by is that participants "have to be veterans or non-veterans."

But he quickly adds that participants must recognize they're speaking in public, so they "have to be nice about it (bullshooting)."

"As far as I know, I'm the only licensed bullshooter in the area," Parker claims, "but I intend to change all that. It's such an important position, I think there should be more of us around."

"My license, for example, was presented by my wife," he says,

"and she's known for a long time about my (bullshooting) abilities."

But Parker says a person also must be dedicated to the art of bullshooting.

For instance, 1985 champion Foxy Howard of Southport defended his title last year only two weeks after checking out of the hospital, Parker says.

Parker says bullshooters' tales have dealt with everything from the mosquito at Mosquito Branch that supplied blood for a triple-bypass operation, to the spot almost caught off Holden Beach Pier that was last seen chasing a nine-foot hammerhead shark into the Gulf Stream.

But he assures that the audience at this year's bullshooting contest will

hear more than ordinary "fish stories."

"A bullshooter can be called a storyteller," Parker says. "A good storyteller can take any type of story and make it anything from serious to hilarious."

A panel of five judges will decide this year's top three bullshooters. A bullshooter to the end, Parker says this year's chief judge again will be the mayor of L.A.—Lower Ash, not Los Angeles.

But if a bullshooter from the larger L.A. ever happens to win the contest, Parker undoubtedly will invoke his bullshooting powers and annex Los Angeles into Brunswick County.

Don't laugh—it happened to Cabarrus County.



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

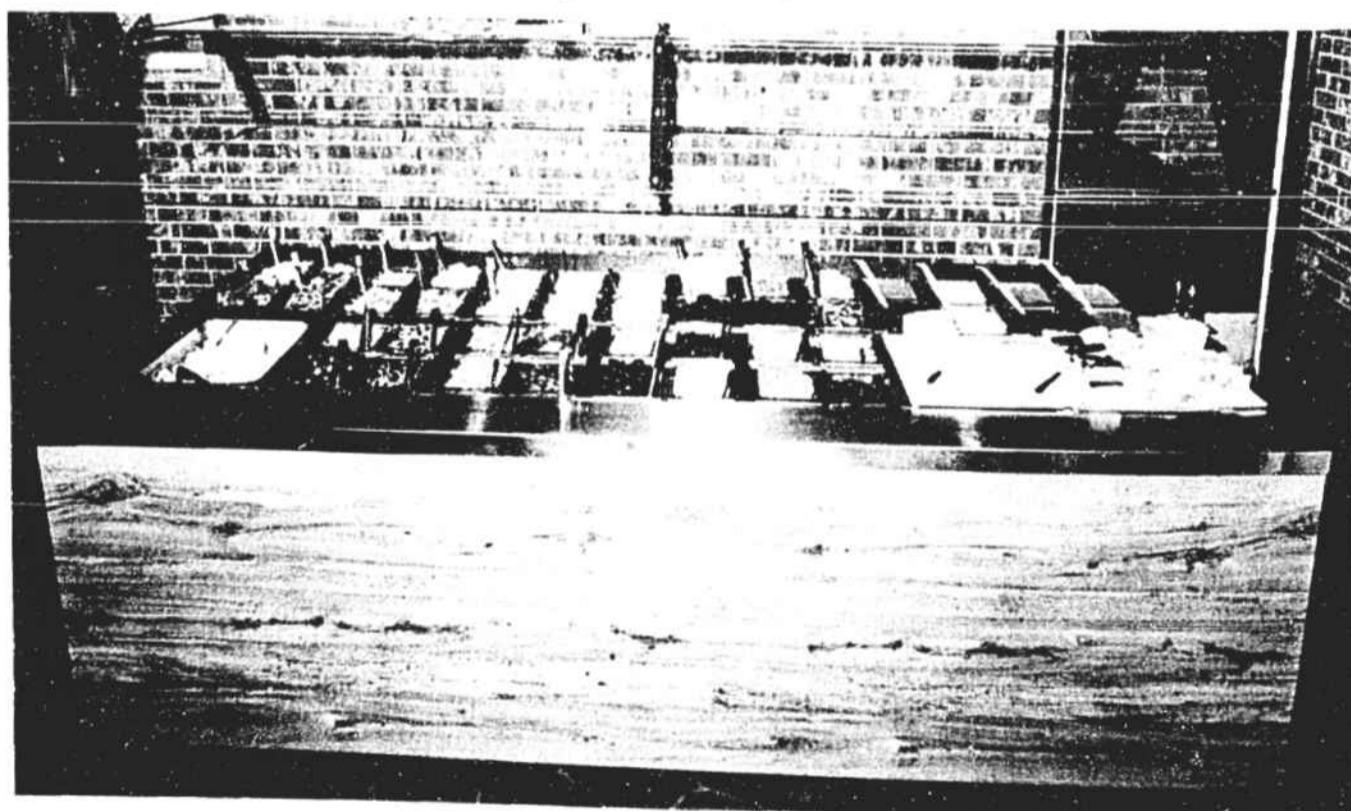
BULLSHOOTER Jess Parker is looking forward to hearing more tall tales during this year's Bullshooting Contest at the 1987 N.C. Oyster Festival.



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